

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising a pair of substrates; a liquid crystal layer disposed between the substrates; and a phase compensator arranged on an outer side of the substrates; wherein, when no voltage is applied, the liquid crystal layer, which has been subjected to a parallel alignment process, is in splay alignment, in which pretilt angles of the liquid crystal at an upper and at a lower boundary of the liquid crystal layer have opposite signs; wherein, before liquid crystal display driving, an initialization process is performed, in which the alignment of the liquid crystal layer is transitioned from splay alignment to bend alignment by application of a voltage; and wherein the liquid crystal display driving is performed in the bend alignment attained by this initialization;

comprising at least one region outside the display pixels where the liquid crystal layer thickness is ~~[[small]]~~ smaller than inside the display pixels, and ~~[[the strength of]]~~ that an electric field caused by the application of said voltage, applied to the liquid crystal layer, ~~[[in this region]]~~ is larger in this region than ~~strength of an electric field applied to the liquid crystal layer~~ in the pixels.

41. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising a pair of substrates; a liquid crystal layer disposed between the substrates; and a phase compensator arranged on an outer side of the substrates; wherein, when no voltage is applied, the liquid crystal layer, which has been subjected to a parallel alignment process, is in splay alignment, in which pretilt angles of the liquid crystal at an upper and at a lower boundary of the liquid crystal layer have opposite signs; wherein, before liquid crystal display driving, an initialization process is performed, in which the alignment

of the liquid crystal layer is transitioned from splay alignment to bend alignment by application of a voltage; wherein the liquid crystal display driving is performed in the bend alignment attained by this initialization; ~~and comprising at least one location in the display pixels where the electric field concentrates~~

comprising an electric field concentration portion in the display pixels; and

at the electric field concentration portion, a bump-shaped protrusion is formed on at least one of the substrates, and layering a transparent electrode on top of the bump-shaped protrusion, it protrudes in the thickness direction of the liquid crystal layer.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising a pair of substrates; a liquid crystal layer disposed between the substrates; and a phase compensator arranged on an outer side of the substrates; wherein, when no voltage is applied, the liquid crystal layer, which has been subjected to a parallel alignment process, is in splay alignment, in which pretilt angles of the liquid crystal at an upper and at a lower boundary of the liquid crystal layer have opposite signs; wherein, before liquid crystal display driving, an initialization process is performed, in which the alignment of the liquid crystal layer is transitioned from splay alignment to bend alignment by application of a voltage; and wherein the liquid crystal display driving is performed in the bend alignment attained by this initialization;

comprising at least one location outside the display pixels where [[the]] an electric field caused by the application of said voltage concentrates.

44. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 43, wherein the location where the electric field concentrates is a portion of an electrode that partially protrudes in thickness direction of the liquid crystal layer.

45. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising a pair of substrates; a liquid crystal layer disposed between the substrates; and a phase compensator arranged on an outer side of the substrates; wherein, when no voltage is applied, the liquid crystal layer, which has been subjected to a parallel alignment process, is in splay alignment, in which pretilt angles of the liquid crystal at an upper and at a lower boundary of the liquid crystal layer have opposite signs; wherein, before liquid crystal display driving, an initialization process is performed, in which the alignment of the liquid crystal layer is transitioned from splay alignment to bend alignment by application of a voltage; wherein the liquid crystal display driving is performed in the bend alignment attained by this initialization;

~~and a portion of either the display electrode or the common electrode or both is provided with an aperture portion~~

comprising a display electrode and/or a common electrode provided with openings in a region within display pixels.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently amended) The liquid crystal display device according to claim ~~[[39]]~~ 40, wherein the phase compensator includes at least one phase compensator made of an optical medium with negative ~~[[reflective]]~~ refractive index anisotropy whose main axes are in hybrid arrangement.

48. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 47, wherein the phase compensator includes at least one positive phase compensator.

49-54. (Canceled)